

## CLEAN WATER SRF INFORMATION REGARDING SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- Approximately 40% of households in South Carolina utilize onsite septic systems.
- According to the EPA Clean Water SRF Activity Update fact sheet (Jan. 03):
  - Replacement, upgrade, or modification of inadequate or failing septic systems are eligible for SRF funding;
  - Costs associated with the establishment of a centralized management entity (permitting fees, legal fees, etc.) are eligible for SRF funding;
  - Potential loan repayment sources include:
    - Property owner's ability to pay
    - Fees paid by developers
    - Recreational fees
    - Dedicated portions of local, county, or state taxes or fees
    - Donations or dues made to nonprofits
    - Stormwater management fees
    - Wastewater user charges
- According to Dr. Bob Rubin of EPA, the use of SRF funds for onsite system repairs has to be approved in the MOA/MOU between DHEC and EPA Region IV; this document can be amended to include this agreement.
- Santa Cruz County, CA uses SRF loans for septic replacements. The county takes the risk for the defaults and puts liens on property.
- Skagit County, WA uses SRF funds through the county treasurer's office. Sender noted that it has been in use for 5+ years and their clients have used it without any complaints.
- New Mexico Environmental Department has successfully funded an alternative onsite project using SRF funds, EPA hardship grant, and HUD Community Development Block Grant.
- Iowa has a very active SRF program that replaces or repairs individual onsite systems. They include a management component as part of the loan process. An environmental health specialist said that the program has been a godsend to folks faced with high costs for replacing onsite systems
- Missouri has an SRF program that lends to counties, large sewer districts and similar entities that in turn re-lend to privates. This gives the local re-lender more control over who gets the loans.
- Oregon has changed some rule language to facilitate using SRF funds for onsite systems. There are some issues with when the interest costs start accruing to the loan recipient
- Pennsylvania uses SRF funds for onsite systems in a program called Pennvest.
- Vermont has language that allows SRF funds for municipally sponsored privately owned ww systems
- New York will loan SRF funds if the municipality owns the system or controls it through an easement.